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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Jerome Souppe, et al
Serial No.: 09/970,616 Group No.:
Filed: October 4, 2001 Examiner.:
For: IMPROVED PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ALCOHOLIC
BEVERAGES USING MALTSEED

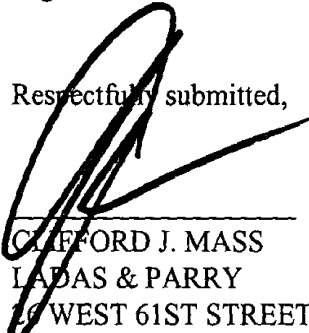
Attorney Docket No.: U 013614-4

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

We draw the attention of the Examiner to the reference listed on the attached
Form PTO-1449. A copy of the reference is not required, because it was already filed
in a U.S. application from which an earlier filing date is claimed in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

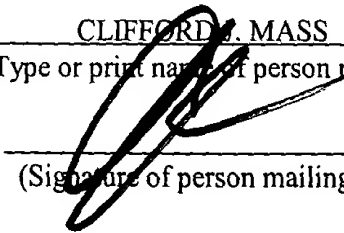

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

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189
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Practitioner's Docket No. U 013614-4

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent application

of _____
Inventor(s)

for _____
Title of invention

OR

In re application of:

Serial No.: Jerome Soupe, et al

Group No.:

Filed: October 4, 2001

Examiner:

For: IMPROVED PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES USING
MALTSEED

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF FILING OR
BEFORE MAILING OF FIRST OFFICE ACTION (37 C.F.R. 1.97(b))**

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed by the applicant: (1) within three months of the filing date of a national application; (2) within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; or (3) before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last." 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b).

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8(a) and 1.10*

*(When using Express Mail, the Express Mail label number is mandatory;
Express Mail certification is optional.)*

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37 C.F.R. 1.8(a)

37 C.F.R. 1.10*

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CLIFFORD J. MASS
(type or print name of person certifying)

***WARNING:** Each paper or fee filed by "Express Mail" must have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 C.F.R. 1.10(b).

"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will not be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

NOTE: The "filing date of a national application" under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b) has two possible meanings. Where the filing is a direct one to the United States Patent & Trademark office, the filing is defined in 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) as "the date on which: (1) A specification containing a description pursuant to § 1.71 and at least one claim pursuant to § 1.75; and (2) any drawing required by § 1.81(a), are filed in the Patent and Trademark Office in the name of the actual inventor or inventors as required by § 1.41." 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(1). On the other hand, an international application that enters the national stage occurs when the applicant has filed the documents and fees required by 35 U.S.C. § 371(c) within the periods set forth in § 1.494 or § 1.495. 35 U.S.C. § 371(c) requires the filing of the following: (1) the national fee; (2) a copy of the international application, unless already sent by the International Bureau, and an English translation if filed in another language; (3) amendments under PCT Article 19, with a translation into English if made in another language; (4) an oath or declaration; and (5) a translation into English of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report, if such annexes were made in another language. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b)(2).

IDENTIFICATION OF TIME OF FILING THE ACCOMPANYING INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

The information disclosure statement submitted herewith is being filed within three months of the filing date of the application or date of entry into the national stage of an international application or before the mailing date of a first Office action on the merits, whichever event occurs last. 37 C.F.R. 1.97(b).

NOTE: "No certification or fee is due when the filing is made within the above time period. It is advisable to ensure that no Office action has been mailed if the disclosure statement is delayed until after three months from filing."

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement will be considered to have been filed on the day it was received in the Office, or on an earlier date of a mailing if accompanied by a properly executed certificate of mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8, or Express Mail certificate under 37 C.F.R. 1.10. An office action is mailed on the date indicated in the Office action." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

NOTE: "The term 'national application' includes continuing applications (continuations, divisions, continuations-in-part) so three-months will be measured from the actual filing date of an application as opposed [sic] to the effective date of a continuing application." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

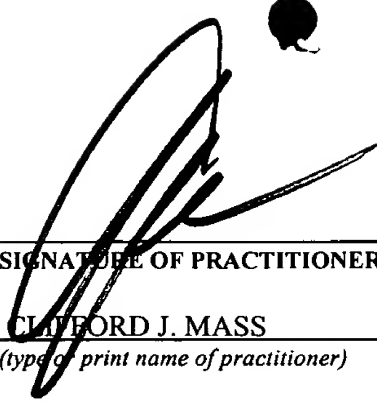
NOTE: "An action on the merits means an action which treats the patentability of the claims in an application, as opposed to only formal or procedural requirements. An action on the merits would, for example, contain a rejection or indication of allowability of a claim or claims rather than just a restriction requirements (37 C.F.R. 1.142) or just a requirement for additional fees to have a claim considered (37 C.F.R. 1.16(d)). Thus, if an application was filed on Jan. 1 and the first Office action on the merits was not mailed until six months later on July 1, the examiner would be required to consider any proper information disclosure statement filed prior to July 1." Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 39).

WARNING: "A petition for suspension of action to allow applicant time to submit an information disclosure statement will be denied as failing to present good and sufficient reasons, since 37 C.F.R. 1.97 provides adequate recourse for the timely submission of prior art for consideration by the examiner." Notice of July 6, 1992 (1141 O.G. 63).

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SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

CLIFFORD J. MASS

(type or print name of practitioner)

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